

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 USIA-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00

OTPE-00 FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-05 COME-00 BIB-01

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R 251500Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, ITU, GW, GR, YO

SUBJECT: ITU LF/MF BROADCASTING CONFERENCE; U.S.-FRG

POSITION ON 611 KHZ.

1. WE NOTE IN THE LIST OF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE LF/MF CONFERENCE THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAS SUBMITTED A FIVE STATION SYNCHRONIZED NETWORK ON 792 KHZ BUT WITH THE INDICATOR THAT AN ALTERNATIVE FREQUENCY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. THIS IS MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN BECAUSE YUGOSLAVIA'S PROPOSED USE OF 792 KHZ WOULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INTERFERENCE THROUGHOUT YUGOSLAVIA AND ADJOINING BALKAN COUNTRIES TO RECEPTION OF TRANSMISSIONS FROM VOA AT KAVALA, GREECE ON 792 KHZ.

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2. YUGOSLAVIA'S INDICATION THAT A FREQUENCY OTHER

THAN 792 KHZ WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE MAY BE INTENDED AS A
LEVER FOR PRYING LOOSE A CONCESSION IN EXCHANGE FOR
PROTECTION OF VOA-KAVALA. GIVEN THEIR OUTSTANDING
COMPLAINT OF INTERFERENCE TO RADIO SARAJEVO, WE SUSPECT
THAT REMOVAL OF AFN FROM 611 KHZ IN THE FRG MAY WELL BE
THE CONCESSION SOUGHT BY YUGOSLAVIA.

3. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONCEDE ON AFN USE OF 611 KHZ
WITH FOLLOWING PROVISIOS:

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A. USE OF 611 KHZ TO CEASE AT APPROPRIATE TIME
SUBSEQUENT TO LF/MF CONFERENCE IF REPLACEMENT FREQUENCY
IS AVAILABLE AND IF IN FACT YUGOSLAVIA PROTECTS
VOA-KAVALA ON 792 KHZ;

B. FRG WILL ENDEAVOR OBTAIN NEW MF ASSIGNMENT TO
REPLACE 611 KHZ;

C. IF MF ASSIGNMENT NOT POSSIBLE, FRG WILL PROVIDE
AN ADEQUATE VHF ASSIGNMENT.

4. WE WOULD LIKE TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA
AT AN EARLY DATE IN HOPE OF FAVORABLE RESOLUTION
OF THE 792 KHZ MATTER PRIOR TO THE LF/MF
CONFERENCE. NEVERTHELESS, WE RECOGNIZE THAT FRG WILL
BE NEGOTIATOR IN OUR BEHALF AT THE CONFERENCE AND
MAY FOR TACTICAL REASONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT FRG
OVERALL INTEREST, HAVE OTHER SUGGESTIONS IN REGARD TO
PROCEDURE AND TIMING OF OUR CONCESSION ON 611 KHZ.

5. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO SOLICIT FRG VIEWS. ADVISE
ASAP. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BROADCASTING, RADIO FREQUENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE175690
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GLHUFFCUTT:SP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750258-0148
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750721/aaaaasio.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITU LF/MF BROADCASTING CONFERENCE; U.S.-FRG POSITION ON 611 KHZ.
TAGS: ETEL, GE, GR, YO, ITU
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006